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THE CROWN

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Escaping Playboy Spirituality

Nathan Colquhoun
Special to the Crown

I remember the first time I got 'saved.' I was four or five years old and my parents walked me through the four steps and then they ordered pizza for me to celebrate. I also remember getting saved about two hundred more times after that initial conversion. Every time I was either re-dedicating my life to Jesus or making sure that it worked. I became gradually more sincere and progressively more sold out each time. I kept getting asked so I kept answering that I wanted to be saved. I figured that since the desire to be saved was still there that I still could go further and be saved more, or saved better each time.

My first pornography experience was equally exciting except I don't recall there being pizza. It was new and electrifying. I was young, oblivious and went with what seemed right. I also remember about two hundred more times experiencing pornography. The pictures were still there inviting me to indulge in them. The desire kept returning so I figured that maybe if I did it just one more time then I would satisfy myself better or feel more complete each time.

The further I journeyed into my spirituality, the more I realized that it was almost a direct reflection of what pornography was like. It wasn't until I realized the parallels did I realize that my spiritual walk wasn't as healthy as I thought. Slowly I have been trying to strip away what I saw damaging to my Christian faith and trying to replace it with what I saw Jesus doing.

Instant Gratification vs. Gradual Process

If there is one thing that makes pornography everything it is today, especially within our technological world, it is the fact that anyone can get it instantaneously wherever they are. I can bring up whatever images of whoever I want, whenever I want, wherever I am. There is no need to even go through the shame of having to buy it over the counter anymore; I can do it in the privacy of my own room. My Christian life took on many of the same characteristics. Whenever I was in need of a spiritual high I would simply walk to the next prayer service, worship service or bible study that was around. While I'm there I can receive anything I need spiritually in a two hour service.

There is no lie in instant gratification. It does gratify, and it does it instantly. The problem comes after it's over. We want it again, and then again. After we get our climatically charged moment, we'll need it again to feel satisfied and the cycle repeats. We end up living our lives from gratification to gratification with no sustenance in anything we are part of. We go to church and it fulfills all those spiritual longings we possess during the week and then we build up the need and then go to church again. If Sundays are the only place we worship, get fed, have fellowship, are in community, and are discipled then it is nothing more than a spiritual orgasm. Our spirituality needs to go deeper than once a week highs. It needs to be part of our everyday life. We need to completely saturate our lifestyles with the community that we are part of and in worship of our creator. Spirituality is not a fantasy world that we jump into and out of once a week; it is something we are married to and are part of every day. We can't continue to waver and expect it to last; fulfillment comes with time, energy and consistency with the people we love and in relationship with God. Jesus spent a long time with his disciples, sticking with them through every mistake and victory. He didn't send his spirit so that they could have a Pentecost once every week on Sunday.

Void of Relationship vs. Building on Relationships

The reason that pornography has such devastating effects on people is because it is void of any real substance or relationship. We trick ourselves into thinking we have a connection with someone. But, they are simply there for our good pleasure and are removed when we are done with them. We get all the benefits of an intimate relationship without the commitment that it takes to be in one. Churches today are filled with people who smile at one another, worship beside each other and then go home and cut any connection with those people until the next week. We are afraid to open up to the people around us and end up just using them to meet our quota for the week and to make us feel good.

It's easy to think we have meaningful relationships with those in our community when we see them once every week. We go through the short and awkward conversations and think that we actually made a meaningful connection. Yet, true spirituality is based on relationships that go deeper than figuring out each other's workdays and asking about the family. These relationships open up our lives to one another to a point

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Dr. Smith Talks Love

Timothy VanAlstyne
Senior Staff Writer

We are what we love, and the love we have stirs us to think, to will and to act. We're deceived if we think that we can stow the people and the things we love most away in a corner of our heart while we jaunt off to work or school. This seems obvious.

Have you ever talked to someone who was passionate about, say, sports? They talk about their favourite team constantly, naturally; their love bubbles up from their heart into their throat, flies off their tongue.

I work in the Writing Centre, and a few months ago a student came in to have an essay about stock-car racing edited. Now, I can't say that's a topic I find very interesting, and I wasn't very excited about sifting through six pages of prose on the subject. But as I read, I began to realize how much this student loved stock-car racing. I read his love in every paragraph.

Dr. James K. A. Smith, professor of philosophy at Calvin College and this year's *The World and our Calling* lecturer, would like to point out this often-forgotten fact to the more intellectual among us: our loves lie at the centre of our lives.

Philosophers have been raving for quite a long time now about the beauty and majesty of the human mind. They hail its power to scrutinize the vastness of outer space, they praise the paintings and songs it composes, and they laud its ability to design tall buildings and to fly huge airplanes.

But again and again, painfully, our experiences remind us of the terror that can result from the misdirected love of even (maybe especially) the most creative and intelligent of minds. Planes and skyscrapers are not always a beautiful combination. All of our knowledge and all of our power can't save us from a heart that loves the wrong thing.

So our heart doesn't stay in our chest. We wear it on our sleeves; it breathes out of us with every word we speak and it sends its passionate impulses through the neurons of our mind, affecting everything we think, say and do. How, then, should we live if God is the true aim of our desires? (In other words, what fellowship can love have with core classes?)

Dr. Smith notes that even the most mundane of activities is a religious liturgy, an act that demonstrates ultimate love toward some thing or another. One of our options is to capitulate to our society's dominant religions—consumerism, individualism. We could worship at the new cathedrals of our age, the Limeridges and the Eaton Centres, surrounded by a great cloud of mannequins as we browse with perseverance the racks marked 'sale' for us. We could put our trust in princely, crime-free suburbs and depend on SUVs the size of Panzers. Comfort and safety could be our parting benediction.

Or, we could go out of church and classroom with Christ's great commandment beating in our heart. Love the Lord your God with all your mind, indeed; learn your major from a Christian perspective, have a late-night argument about predestination with your dorm-mates. But James Smith reminds us: don't forget to love also with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Good Monsters, Good Music, Good Night

Natalie Armstrong
Editor-in-Chief

When Christian young adults hear the word "flood," they often think of two things: one, of course, being the flood as described in Genesis 5-9; the other, is the song by legendary Christian recording artists Jars of Clay.

On April 3, 2007, the Grammy-award winning artists Jars of Clay performed to an enthusiastic crowd of students, alumni, and young and old members of the surrounding community. Two acts that preceded the band's performance where Need to Breathe, a band of up and coming rockers from South Carolina, and Leigh Nash, former lead singer for the now-defunct band, Sixpence None the Richer.

Nash kicked-off the night with songs from her new album *Blue on Blue* (2006) as well as popular favourites from her time as a member of Sixpence None the Richer, such as "Kiss Me" from the self-titled platinum album. Nash teamed up with Need to Breathe and Jars of Clay on this leg of the Good Monsters Tour to fill in for Burlap to Cashmere who decided to bring a premature end to their touring schedule.

Anticipation was in the air as fans awaited the performance of Jars of Clay. The merchandise table was busy, popular Jars songs were being hummed in the hallways and more than a couple of Redeemer students commented on spotting the band on campus.

Sitting down with Charlie Lowell of Jars of Clay, (pianist, accordionist, keyboardist, vocalist, and organist), I must admit that I thought the band may be a little out-of-touch. When I thought back to my own early Jars encounters, I remembered purchasing the self-titled cassette tape at the age of 11.

Almost 12 years later, I thought the band of seasoned fathers and guys who have been playing the Christian music scene for over 15 years would be more than a little disconnected.

I was wrong.

Charlie surprised me with his answer to my first question: what do you have on your iPod right now? He responded: "The Shins's new album, Arcade Fire's new album, Mutemath, and Midlake – who is a lot like Fleetwood Mack."

With the ice broken, I asked Charlie what books he is presently reading or if he has read anything lately that has really impacted him.

"I just read *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan* by Benson Deng. It was incredible." Charlie also mentioned *Better Off: Flipping the Switch on Technology* by Eric Brende as a book he has recently enjoyed.

In preparing for the interview, I went to the most accurate source I know: www.wikipedia.org. Wikipedia had several pages of content on Jars of Clay as a band and the members as individuals (and you know you are a major public figure when you are referenced on Wikipedia).

I asked Charlie if he could have imagined the success that the band has had over the years.

"We wrote our first songs on our college dorm room floor for ourselves, for a class for school, and for a few friends…without much of a vision at all. Each step has been a new level of surprise…we have been both humbled and thankful for each experience," said Lowell.

In 2002, lead singer Dan Haseltine visited Africa on a trip that would change the direction of his life and add something to the band's mission. After this trip, the band launched Blood:Water Mission. Their vision was to provide clean water by means of wells to communities where people who were ill with AIDS and other such diseases were not dying from the disease itself, but because of preventable causes due to a lack of clean water.

When asked about Blood: Water, Lowell was excited with where the project is going: "People are responding to the need…[we have been able to] empower people to connect with other people across the ocean on a personal level. It is often paralyzing to hear about the numbers of people dying of AIDS and the numbers of orphans…we don't know what to do, but when we talk about one person, there is joy in the ability to do something."

Jars of Clay hopes to build 200 more wells this year with the Blood: Water campaign, living out their mission of making a change one person, one village at a time.

When asked if the band sees an end in sight, Lowell responded, "We don't see one. It is bittersweet touring while balancing family life and band-life/road-life… [but] we're enjoying the song-writing process more than ever…loving the studio time."

For more concert pictures, see page 6

COMMENTARY

Justice for Creation

Natalie Armstrong
Editor-in-Chief

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a conference hosted by Epiphaneia Network Inc. in Oakville. The Evolving Church conference featured keynote speakers: Ron Sider, author of such books as *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger* (1977) and *Living Like Jesus* (1999); Reverend Jim Wallis, founder and editor of *Sojourners Magazine* and author of such books as *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It* (2004); and Shane Claiborne, author of *The Irresistible Revolution* (2006) and co-founder of a community in Philadelphia called *The Simple Way*.

Along with this incredible list of social justice-oriented people came a crew of more than a dozen who led workshops. This amazing group included: Dan Oudshoorn, Greg Paul, Dion Oxford, Rick Tobias, Tim Huff, David Fitch, Sandra Ryan, Marv Friesen, Art and Trudy Hildebrand, Jeremy Laidlaw, Ann Woolger Bell, Lorna Maracle-Dodge, and Sylvia Keesmaat.

The focus of the conference was social justice and the Christian lifestyle incorporating the ideas of how Christianity should embrace and exemplify justice to the world in various ways.

I had the privilege of attending a workshop by Shane Claiborne and another by Sylvia Keesmaat. Keesmaat is currently an adjunct professor of Biblical studies at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto. She is a homeschooling mother who lives on an organic farm called Russet House Farms. Keesmaat co-authored *Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire* with her husband, Brian Walsh.

Keesmaat's workshop focused on the question: who are we in the Biblical story in relation to creation? In a whirlwind tour through scripture, she covered dozens of verses associated with creation and issues of justice for creation.

Over the past year, I have been wrestling with issues of justice as I'm sure many others my age often do: world justice, race/gender/cultural justice, justice in Canada, individual justice issues, structural justice, and justice in creation.

In the last month, I have been most challenged by the last issue mentioned: justice in creation. That is, I've been looking at how my life, my habits, my choices have affected creation.

This may sound a little too introspective, but I can't help but wonder the effect it would have on our environment if we all took a look at how we are currently living.

For many of us, (myself included), it can seem like a huge leap to take even the smallest of steps. Some of the ways to take baby steps are things we have been told our entire lives, but often neglect to put in to practice: turning off lights, taking shorter showers, and the like. Many of us have been indoctrinated with these types of ideas since childhood.

When I was in the seventh grade, my school did a large Earth Day production complete with songs, costumes, and constant reminders to recycle. We rapped about using less water; we wrote skits about recycling. To this day, I can remember the song entitled "Don't Throw It All Away" that had somewhat of a musical production style similar to that of *Grease*.

However, even though I learned a great deal about the environment and issues of concern as a child, very little of it resonated in me. My life did not change. I lived without caring all too much about issues of justice in creation. I recycled when it was convenient. I turned lights off when it didn't cause me to go out of my way. But that was about all the initiative I took.

In environmental science 101 – a core class that I am taking in this my final semester at Redeemer – my passion for seeing justice done in creation has been greatly encouraged and further informed.

I realize that I am ill-prepared to make major life changes, but I am seeking to take steps to change. Making the effort to use green bins for waste, limiting my use of packaged foods, recycling as much as I can – I just found out that aluminum foil can be recycled; thank-you, Dr. Brouwer! – and incorporating more practical ways of reducing the size of my ecological footprint have been things that I have endeavoured to make a priority in my life. One that I am most excited about is planting a vegetable garden this summer.

Certain environmentally-friendly members of the Redeemer community may be groaning a little at my feeble attempts to help out the planet, but I will admit to the fact that I must start out with baby steps.

As Christians, we often discuss the need to seek justice for the poor, the marginalized, the weak, and in seeking justice for creation we are doing that as well. God's creation is a wonderful representation of how we are impacting this world.

Planting the Seed and Watching it Grow

Erma Luis
Junior Staff Writer

"All human beings are born with unique gifts. The healthy functioning of our community depends on its capacity to develop each gift." I believe that teachers have one of the most exciting, dynamic, and rewarding professions; witnessing the great effort that the children must put forth, and seeing them achieve academic success, truly makes teaching a rewarding profession.

I knew that I wanted to be a teacher when I saw firsthand what a special career it was from the great teachers I've had. I owe so much to Debra Curtis, Mary Lou Facey, Glenda Leusink, Louise Signoretti, and Craymer Forth. They're not famous to you, but they made a difference in this world by teaching me so much about it...and myself.

As education students this year, we were asked to continually develop and reflect upon our teaching philosophy. As a result, I came to the following conclusion: it is difficult for me, a future teacher, to synthesize exactly what my philosophy of education is - although I suspect even many veteran teachers would find this a difficult task. Each time I attempt to write my philosophy of education, it changes. I feel that to capture our philosophy is somewhat similar to trying to capture the essence of ourselves; it always eludes definition by the nature of its complexity and evolution. I know that as I grow as a teacher, my philosophy will grow as well. However, the core of me - that which tells me that I love children and want to add my touch to helping them realize all their potential - is unshakable.

I believe in focusing on individual needs, and involving students in the process of their learning. I believe that all students have strengths, and that it is the goal of education: to assist students in identifying and building upon these. Also, that education is like gardening; it has its times of seeding and harvest. A gardener soon discovers that plants do not exist merely for us to impose our will on them.

A good teacher, like a gardener, knows how to lead his or her students forward by listening to their inner needs, and bringing them out at the right time. Like flowers, children need the love and careful tending of the devoted gardener. Also, like the gardener, the teacher plans, studies, and prepares the physical environment, and provides the materials to be acted upon by the children.

There is a Latin proverb that states: "He who teaches learns" (*qui docet discit*). Since teaching, I have learned the following:

I have learned the true nobility of this profession and that I am the most fortunate of all who labour.

I have learned to be many people in many places:

I am Emperor Charlemagne championing the principles of public education.

I am Socrates exciting the youth of Athens to discover new ideas by asking them probing questions.

I am Herodotus, Aesop, and Hans Christian Andersen revealing truth through countless stories.

I am Anne Sullivan tapping out the secrets of the universe into the outstretched hand of Helen Keller.

The names of those who have practiced my profession ring out as a Hall of Fame for humanity, and *I have learned* that it is my task to carry on their traditions: Buddha, Confucius, Moses, Aristotle, Plato, St. Thomas Aquinas, John Adams, Samuel Johnson, Nietzsche, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Jesus.

I am also those whose names are not known or have been forgotten but whose lessons and character will always be remembered in the accomplishments of their students. And I am a warrior, daily combating against peer pressure, negativity, fear, conformity, prejudice, ignorance, and apathy. But I can call upon my great allies: intelligence, curiosity, parental support, individuality, creativity, faith, love, and laughter — and they will rush to my banners with indomitable support. That if I can succeed in giving the love of learning, the learning itself is sure to follow.

Throughout the course of a day I am called upon to be a confidant, motivator, coach, actor and leader. *I have learned* that these are humbling responsibilities.

My personal experiences contribute to my philosophy today in that the most meaningful learning takes place when students are motivated and interested. It is my belief that the way to achieve this is by giving students a voice in the learning process, and by assisting them in finding connections in the curriculum with their own life and interests. By allowing students to bring their own stories, experiences, and ideas into the classroom, this provides the students with opportunities to work together, to learn from each other, and to respect each other's differences.

> *A good teacher, like a gardener, knows how to lead his or her students forward by listening to their inner needs, and bringing them out at the right time.*

My philosophy of education has been greatly influenced by that of the professors here at Redeemer. I feel that to be a success as a teacher, I must remain flexible and willing to alter my teaching style; times change and a teacher must be willing to change with them.

I agree with John Dewey that I need to teach students to manage themselves in their present society. Teachers should not try to prepare their students for the future. If I teach students to manage themselves in the present, and since the present society constantly changes, they will be able to manage themselves in the future.

My teaching experience was more challenging than I'd ever imagined. In my twenty-something years of being a student, I think I have become really good at that role, almost a 'professional'. Suddenly, being a teacher meant that everything was new; everything I did was something I had never done before. And the stakes were high. It wasn't like it was a practice class, with practice kids while I was teaching. I was these students' real teacher, and what I did affected them for real life. I wanted to be the best teacher these students had ever had.

Every perceived mistake, real or imagined, hit me hard at first. I had to learn to adjust, to learn from my experiences and move on. I learned that it was okay to make a mistake and to be myself. I wasn't quite prepared for the emotional commitment. I wanted to do my best, not only for my own sake, but for the sake of the students as well. Another challenge was incorporating all the theories and ideas I had learned in my coursework, into the reality of the classroom, adapting them to my students and myself.

The rewards outweighed the challenges. It is rewarding to see ideas work, risks pay off, and to see improvement, not only in the students but also in myself. Mostly though, the reward was simply in the students. I loved interacting with them, watching them interact with each other, and seeing their progress. So *I have learned* that never doing anything less than my best is something I must not only teach, but *live*.

I learned so much over the course of the semester, and some things I will realize later. The most important thing that stands out for me is that teaching is more than content. I knew that before I began, but the actual experience of teaching made me see how true it is.

I have learned that, while material wealth is not one of my life's goals, I am a full-time treasure seeker in my quest for new opportunities for my students to use their God-given talents, and in my search to discover their talents that sometimes lie buried in the doubts of self-defeat.

I have learned that a teacher always teaches what he or she most needed to learn. That our own life's lessons are the ones we are keenest to impart, and that these lessons we are certain to provide with utmost clarity as we speak from the wisdom gained by personal experience.

I have learned that a great teacher "never strives to explain his vision, but simply invites others to stand beside him and see it for themselves." This is because education, to be successful, must not only inform but inspire.

Quite simply, *I have learned* that education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire; not what is poured into a student that counts, but what is planted and then grows because education is what survives when the lesson has been forgotten.

I have learned that being a teacher comes responsibility for not only sending students away with as much knowledge and skill as it is within my power to help them discover, but more importantly to send them away with the ability and inclination to use those skills to help themselves and others.

Tragically, *I have learned* that I can't save every student no matter how much I want to (and this was a heart-breaking lesson).

I have learned that I am a paradox. That I speak loudest when I listen.

The job description of a good teacher is one who makes him or herself progressively unnecessary. The greatest gifts are found in what one is willing to appreciatively receive from their students. Being a teacher, I am no less a student.

One last thing that I have learned is that I have a past rich in memories, and a present that remains an exciting, challenging adventure, filled with joy and fun because I am allowed to spend my days with the future. Who do I have to thank for this wonderful life that I am so blessed to live? God, my teachers, you, and the parents – for they have done me the great honour of entrusting me with their children's education.

If I had to choose one way to describe my student teaching experience, I'd say it was a beginning. Overall, I wasn't perfect, but then, I know I couldn't have been. Being a teacher is about growing, learning and exploring.

In conclusion, education is a journey; it is a voyage in which the child and the teacher travel together to discover the joys of the world, the pleasure of learning, the sense of fulfillment derived from knowing something, being able to do something, and a sense of aesthetic pleasure.

I realized the importance of well thought-out planning, in which both long-term and short-term goals are always kept in mind. Redeemer's education professors taught us the importance of walking through a lesson from the students' point of view, in addition to that of the teacher. In order for each child to grow and learn, he/she must first feel safe, accepted, and competent in an environment that is encouraging, nurturing, supportive and challenging. I believe that every child, like a seed, has the potential to bloom under the proper conditions.

CAMPUS NEWS

Student Senate: The Year in Review

Andrew Vlasblom
Senior Staff Writer

We have come a long way since September. While many students are currently feeling the heavy weight of academia challenging our productivity rates through term papers and impending exams, we have faced many other challenges for the past seven months.

Through most of these challenges, we have persevered. First year students have settled in, found their footing and gotten involved; returning students have furthered their involvements and are now exhausted (in a good way).

As a student body, we have made many discoveries, asked existential questions, and had a great deal of fun throughout it all. Overall, this school has grown significantly both as individuals and as a collective whole.

Now that the year is coming to an end, most of us will be dispersing from this institution – some for the summer, some forever.

Many first year students left their homes and have found their new home here at Redeemer while fourth and fifth year students prepare to leave home for a second time as they graduate from Redeemer. Amidst the renewed homemaking and graduating of the student body, the Student Senate of Redeemer is experiencing similar turnover, albeit on a smaller scale. With many senators going out and new ones coming in, there are many changes taking place.

As this year of service comes to a close, Senate would like to inform you of what we have been doing this past year and what we have accomplished. Have you ever wondered: "What the heck does Student Senate do?" If you have ever asked this question, we will answer this question for you in an informal manner: "The Student Senate of Redeemer is here for you, the student body!" How many times have you heard this schpeel? Hopefully never but we are about to delve into it here.

"We're open to your concerns." This might seem strange when our door is closed an hour early on Fridays.

"We'll take your concerns seriously." This may seem hard to believe when we are sitting in our office watching political satire or listening to the "My Fair Lady" soundtrack.

"We strive to be exemplary students." Really? What was the reason for that conspicuous empty seat in class the other day?

> Student Senate operates not only as a liaison between the student body and the administration of Redeemer but also as a resource for the student body...

"We're here to assist you however we can." Great! Can I get a problem-solving life-encompassing bus pass?

Perhaps you have felt some of these hypothetical emotions or perhaps you have not. Regardless, we would like to say that we realize that we are all flawed and fallible students. Also, since the Student Senate is comprised of your fellow students, we may not be able to solve your deeper concerns or issues in life or offer clear moral direction in for issues that we are struggling with as well. However, we are here to serve you and encourage you, to discuss your concerns and to help you help yourself.

Student Senate operates not only as a liaison between the student body and the administration of Redeemer but also as a resource for the student body, assisting in and providing extra-curricular activity on campus. We discuss student policies, oversee Senate-funded clubs, run activities, and communicate student issues with Student Life. And, of course, we annually distribute transit passes (encompassing the city of Hamilton). However, most importantly, Student Senate is here for you and is open to your concerns. We can't promise satisfaction guaranteed or your money back (these are Redeemer student fees) but we can try to help you find a solution to whatever concerns you may have about student life, the campus, this institution's future, or the greater good of Redeemer as a whole. We will take your concerns seriously. It is our responsibility to be senators both inside and outside the office, so please do not feel that you are limited to only voicing your concerns in the office.

As the current Senate members head out and the next year's senators come marching in, it is our prayer that the senators of next year will hold to the many constitutional changes that we have implemented and also the new image we have tried to cultivate for the Student Senate over the past year.

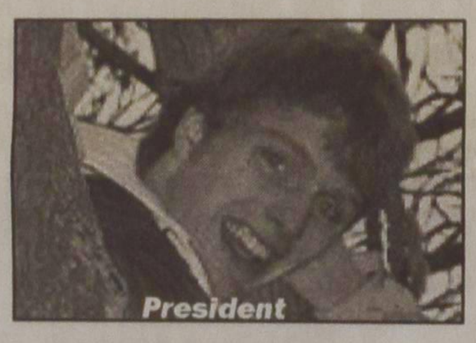
It has been a productive year for us and next year promises to be a fantastic time. Thank you for the support this year in approving the constitutional changes and gracing our office with your presence, as well as making your voice known. We appreciate it and hope that you will feel comfortable enough to do so even more next year. Have a marvelous summer, and may God bless you in whatever you may endeavour to do.

Meet Your 2007-2008 Student Senate!

Natalie Armstrong
Editor in Chief

President
Name: Steve Pypker
Age: 21
Year at Redeemer: 2nd year
Major/Minor: Political Science/ History/Philosophy/Sociology or something of the like
Past Redeemer extra-curriculars: Choir, Student Senate, Activities Committee, Kuyper's Cafe, the unofficial Skateboarding Club, professor's assistant
One thing I love about Redeemer is: One thing? This is only one of many things, but I would have to say the profs at Redeemer are outstanding. They take the time to really listen to you, and truly invest their wisdom into students. In this regard, Redeemer is an Ivy League school at a (sort of) lower price.
If I could change one thing at Redeemer, it would be: A new student centre. Students need a place to gather and unwind in-between classes, and the Rec Centre is too far away to be practical - especially for commuters. A new student centre is proposed to be completed by 2009/2010, so I guess my wish is coming true. Too bad we'll all have graduated. Well, hopefully one of my three younger sisters will be around to enjoy it.
Most inspirational scripture: "Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." Psalm 51:12
Any other info/facts about yourself you would like to include: I don't have a high school diploma, as I was home schooled until Redeemer. (Shh...don't tell the registrar.)

Vice-President Student Affairs
Name: Katrina VandenBerg
Age: 20
Year at Redeemer: 2nd year
Major/Minor: English major / physical education minor
Past Redeemer extra-curriculars: First Year Student Senator, Student Senate Secretary, Kidz Club, SASC, intramurals, Cross Culture, FROG team leader
One thing I love about Redeemer is: The quality of the relationships that you make here are fantastic. The "good-


President

mornings" and "how's it goings" that you receive on the way to class in the morning - it makes my day!
If I could change one thing at Redeemer, it would be: That is a loaded question that a whole Crown article could be dedicated to...a simple answer to this question would be that the massive late charges on library books need to be lowered!
Most inspirational scripture: Psalm 91: 14-16
Any other info/facts about yourself you would like to include: grew up on a farm, huge baseball fan, favourite snack is milk and chocolate chip cookies, and the Dixie Chicks rock my world.

Vice-President Finance
Name: Matthew Schroor
Age: 21
Year at Redeemer: 3rd year
Major/Minor: Horticulture/Business
Past Redeemer extra-curriculars: Club volleyball, stat-taker for varsity volleyball
One thing I love about Redeemer is: The friendliness of the people that go to the school.
If I could change one thing at Redeemer, it would be: Like everyone else,
the price.
Most inspirational scripture: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts; always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Cor. 13:4-7
Any other info/facts about yourself you would like to include: I have the ability to swallow marshmallows whole, not the small ones but the big ones.

Vice-President Communication
Name: Chandler Horne
Age: 21
Year at Redeemer: 2nd year
Major/Minor: Religion/Theology – Youth ministry stream/Business
Past Redeemer extra-curriculars: Badminton Club President, SISO volunteer, Club Basketball, Cross Culture group leader
One thing I love about Redeemer is: The small class sizes
If I could change one thing at Redeemer, it would be: The way we look at providing students with food.
Most inspirational scripture: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8: 38-39

SASC Chair
Name: Nikki VanEyk
Age: 20
Year at Redeemer: 3rd year
Major/Minor: Religion and Theology/ Political Science, Sociology, History
Past Redeemer extra-curriculars: chapel committee, SASC, A-team
One thing I love about Redeemer is: the many opportunities available to be involved in.
If I could change one thing at Redeemer, it would be: limited availability of courses
Most inspirational scripture: Colossians 3:12-14 "...so being chosen by God for this new life, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offence, forgive as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love, it is your basic all purpose garment, never be without it."

Activities Chair
Name: Victoria Klassen
Age: 20
Year at Redeemer: 3rd year
Major/Minor: Biology Major/double minor in Chemistry and Religion
Past Redeemer extra-curriculars: I've been apart of the Activities Committee for the past two years, Publications

VP of Student Affairs

general senator in my 2nd year, HA, RA
One thing I love about Redeemer is: Everything (You pretty much can call me a nerd for that!)
If I could change one thing at Redeemer, it would be: The stereotypes about Redeemer
Most inspirational scripture: Philippians 4:4-8
Any other info/facts about yourself you would like to include: I
am really pumped for next year, I love ketchup, and I am not, I repeat not, an acorn, walnut, pecan or any other kind of nut!

General Senators
Name: Jemica Hallberg
Age: 18
Year at Redeemer: 1st year
Major/Minor: Art/English
Past Redeemer extra-curriculars: First year Senator, SASC member, Cross Culture, indoor soccer
One thing I love about Redeemer is: The Christian Community that is in every
aspect of RUC
If I could change one thing at Redeemer, it would be: The denomination
barriers that prevent unity as we are all one body on Christ.
Most inspirational scripture: Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do
not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
Any other info/facts about yourself you would like to include: My sister is my best friend, I love missions, camping, canoeing, cross-country skiing,
art and Lord of the Rings. I am addicted to working at Ryerson United Church Camp and I hope to be a high school teacher someday.

Name: Angie Davids
Age: 20
Year at Redeemer: 2nd year
Major/Minor: English/Physical Education (in Education Program)
Past Redeemer extra-curriculars: A-Team Member, Living Rock Ministries Volunteer, club volleyball
One thing I love about Redeemer is: Walking the halls knowing that the chance of seeing a friendly face is 100%!
If I could change one thing at Redeemer, it would be: The amount of recognition it gets in the outside community for being a great post-secondary education option. More people should know about our incredible community.
Most inspirational scripture: Isaiah 1: 19 "If you are willing and obedient you will eat the good of the land." - God says it how it is, as straight forward as that, being faithful will be rewarded.
Any other info/facts about yourself you would like to include: It is so exciting to know that Redeemer is exactly where God wants me at this point in my life. Being able to serve the student body is another step in the journey that I'm thrilled to take hold of.

Name: Matt Vandervecht
Age: 21
Year at Redeemer: 2nd year
Major/Minor: Philosophy, Political Science/ Art history
Past Redeemer extra-curriculars: Kuyper's Cafe
One thing I love about Redeemer is: Prof. D. Koyzis
If I could change one thing at Redeemer, it would be: ...install moving sidewalks
Most inspirational scripture: 2 Timothy 1:6-10
Any other info/facts about yourself you would like to include: I come from a country with almost twice as many sheep as there are people. There are two more oceans in the world I need to swim in to have swum in them all. During the summers, I enjoy mountain biking and rock climbing. Most importantly I am a four-year old, Christian. Praise God!

Confessions of a Pornaholic

Amanda Scarlett
Junior Staff Writer

Many outside of the Christian community do not see a problem with pornographic material. Whether in art, media or literature, pornography, (or porno), is often used by professionals in relationship counselling. To most Christians though, pornography is a source of sexual impurity and sin.

Why do Christians seem to view sexual impurity as being worse than other sins? Does the Bible not essentially tell us that all sins are equal in the eyes of God? Why then do Christians condemn sexual impurity so much more? Why is there a stigma that people with pornographic and sexual addictions are worse than liars, hypocrites or slanderers?

And why is it that women with pornography addictions are looked down on so much more then men? I ask this not out of a feminist mindset, but rather out of despair. Surely I am not the only girl on campus with a pornography addiction…am I? And if I am, does that make me a slut? A whore? A failure as a Christian? Am I dirtier than others? More sinful? Am I a harlot? An adulteress? A temptress?

I would like to believe that this is not so. My virginity defends me against the accusations of being a slut/whore/harlot/adulteress. What about the accusations of being a dirty, sinful temptress? To those accusations, I don't know how to answer.

Gender aside, how many people (men, women, professors, students) within this community are currently suffering from this addiction in silence? How many suffer for fear of condemnation from their friends, peers and superiors. Some may even fear expulsion from the community. How many are afraid of the looks, the scoffing, the disgust in the eyes of those around them? How many are silently drowning in despair?

Those who don't have this addiction may have difficulty understanding how something like watching porn could be addictive. How can something as sadistic as S&M, as disturbing as furry fetishes, as dehumanizing as bondage, be addictive? How can watching oral sex be a turn on? How can such activities cause arousal?

I don't know, and I would dare to say that most don't know either. Most of us don't understand how something so grotesque can give us pleasure. But it does, and with time it gets worse.

As with any addiction, it starts to overtake you. You may have started innocently enough; maybe you were curious. Maybe you wanted to open your mind to a new art style. Maybe you were looking for a new way to spice up your romance stories. No matter how it starts, it soon spirals out of control.

You want to stop: you try to stop. You don't want to do this: your mind and heart are screaming and crying for you to stop: you feel guilty, shameful and dirty, and every time your addiction wins, you can feel a piece of your soul dying.

> Why isn't the Christian community trying to help people with this addiction, rather than condemning them?

Paul nails it perfectly (no pun intended) when he exclaims in Romans 15-19: "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate to do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-this I keep on doing."

Day after day, you come before God begging for forgiveness and help and each day you feel more hopeless than the previous. Each day you feel dirtier than before, sometimes too dirty to come before anyone, let alone God. You start living daily with indescribable guilt and shame. These emotions start to affect your personality, your outlook and your relationships, most notably, your relationship with God.

Chances are one of three things will happen: a) you continue the dreadful cycle until you become indifferent to the problem; b) the hopelessness becomes too great and you fall away from God, convinced you are too dirty and sinful, and that God is sick of forgiving you for something you continue to do; or c) you overcome your addiction.

But how do you overcome an addiction? Support groups are seen as almost a necessity in the process. So why are Christian support groups for porn addicts so few and far between? Why are no PA, Pornaholics Anonymous, running in the churches or within Christian communities? Why isn't the Christian community trying to help people with this addiction, rather than condemning them?

Yes, you need to acknowledge you have an addiction.

Yes, you need to bring your addiction before God and confess it.

Yes, you need to ask for forgiveness and help from Jesus.

Yes, you need to acknowledge your part in this addiction.

But what next? Where do you go from there? What happens when you relapse? I had been six months clean when my relapse occurred. It was sudden, spontaneous and it hit hard. What happened? What sparked my relapse? I thought God had freed me from this bondage so what happened? Am I such a horrible Christian?

While the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak. And that is why Christians need to be able to speak openly about this problem, for both men and women. We need to make an atmosphere here at Redeemer where people can come forward about this addiction and seek supported help. How can addicts gain help when there is no support? How can we get help when we are afraid to come forward about it? If we can't help within the Christian community, where else are we supposed to look?

When the body of Christ condemns you, how can you not help but feel that Christ, Himself, does as well?

Pornographic Spirituality

continued from page 1

where nothing is hidden. Our hurts, our passions, our embarrassments, our accomplishments and our remorse are all laid out bare before another person and you journey together.

This is what happens when two people truly love each other the way that Christ meant it. We slowly tear away the facades that each of us have put up and then choose to love each other despite our shortcomings. There is something unique about connecting with someone when your hearts are both laid bare. Any one who has experienced this would never go back to the relationships that are nothing more than entertaining images of what each of us wish we were.

Self-Focused vs. God- and Others-Focused

Pornography shows no care for other people. It is all about the person indulging in it. It is about making oneself feel good and nothing more. Unfortunately, church and spirituality have taken this turn also—to a dead end. We constantly are trying to feed ourselves by reading the Bible. We are always looking for ways for God to bless us and heal us and make us happier than we already are. We want people to think the way we think and we want people to act the way we act. We want God to work within our agenda and for God to take our plans and make them his.

Worship songs are slowly turning into me-focused songs. Congregations are slowly becoming less and less for the unsaved and becoming focused into making us better Christians. The money is not going to the world around us but to make our buildings better and our technology more up to date. This couldn't be further from the gospel that Jesus gave us to proclaim. The gospel that I see in the scriptures is one that calls us to be feeding the poor and taking care of those in need. It tells us to let go of all we have in exchange for a community that takes care of its members and all those around it. It tells us to love others more than we love ourselves and to think of others first—not to make sure that we are comfortable and spiritual enough first and then help. Spirituality is based on others. That's where the fulfillment comes. It's a paradoxical spirituality in that you achieve what you are looking for when you help others find it.

Guilt Ridden vs. Forgiveness Laden

Thousands of people are filled with guilt because of their uncontrollable addiction to pornography. Knowing that it's wrong, they indulge freely for that moment and feel the guilt until they make that moment happen again. On the same token, I can't count the number of times I have been told to read my Bible more, pray more, study more or give more. It seems that we are constantly failing and falling short of where we are supposed to be in our spiritual walk. The standards appear to be increasing and we seem to be less able to even reach where we were the year before. We are constantly fueled by our guilt of not being up to par. Instead, Christ calls us to be fueled by the forgiveness that already exists. He calls us to live within the grace that he offers us with every breath. Instead of trying to live up to impossible standards that we can never reach he tells us to live under grace and with the love and passion for him. The difference is vital. One has us trying to reach a goal that is unattainable by us and already attained for us. The other has us living a life free of that impossible task—without that immovable burden.

We have already reached perfection in the eyes of Christ, so there is no point in being guilty for not achieving it by our own standards. The only way our spirituality can fully be experienced is by simply living it through the forgiveness that already covers it in Christ.

Escaping Playboy spirituality means practicing discipline and self-control. It means that we no longer will be seduced by the temporal gratifying things of life but will look only to that which lasts forever. It means that we will look to Jesus for water that will never have us thirsting again instead of the water that leaves us with seven husbands and still unsatisfied. It means that we won't sit around and ask what we can do to make us look better, more attractive, and more comfortable; instead we'll ask how we can serve the people around us.

It means that we won't lavish guilt on people when they can't meet our standards but we will journey with them to show them the forgiveness that already exists for them. It means that we will grow in deep relationships with people instead of hiding from them. It means a lot of things that we will each figure out on our own. Slowly we will pull ourselves away from the airbrushed images of spirituality that exist all around us and we will get the raw and freeing reality of Christ.

THE CROWN

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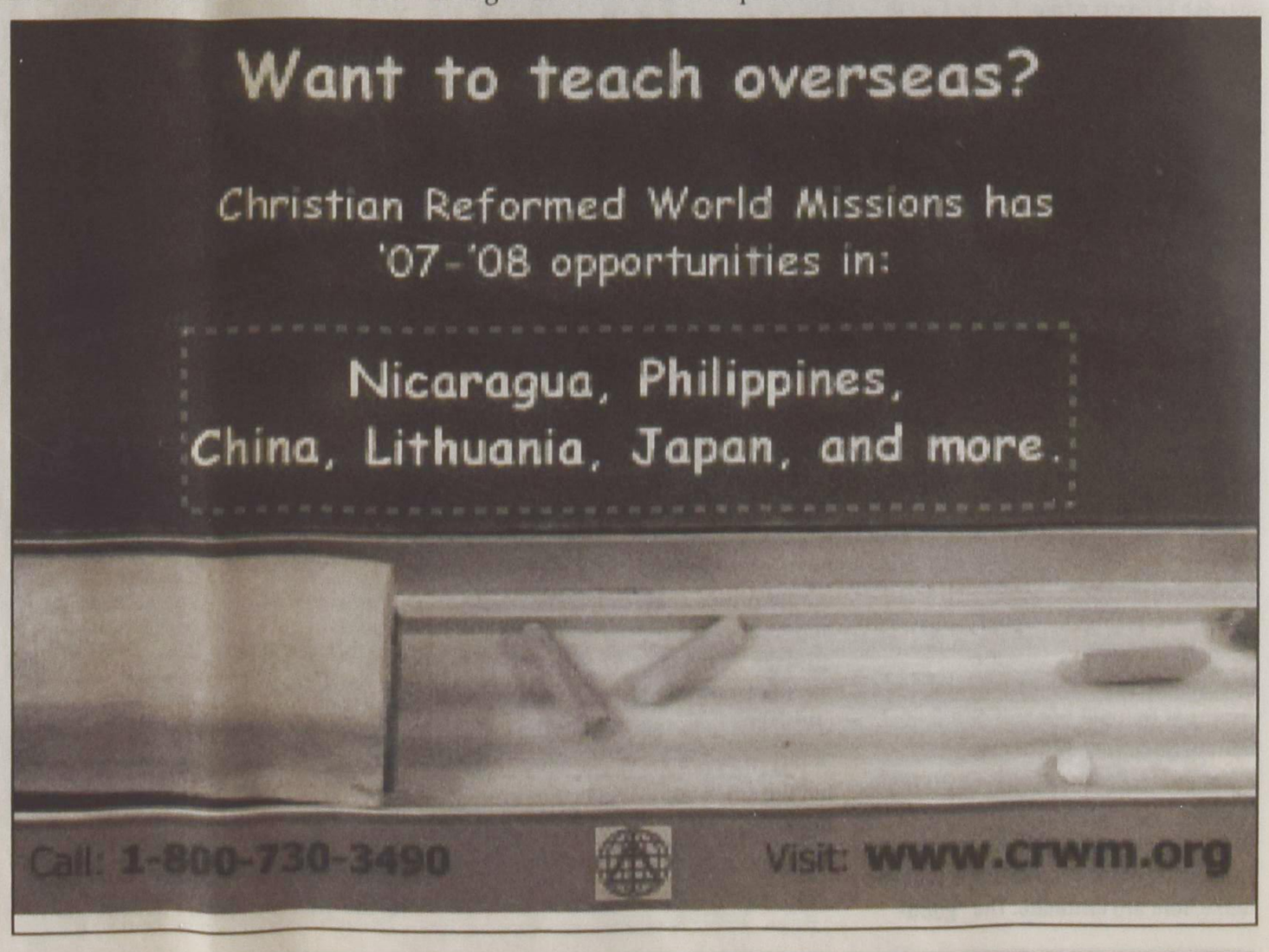
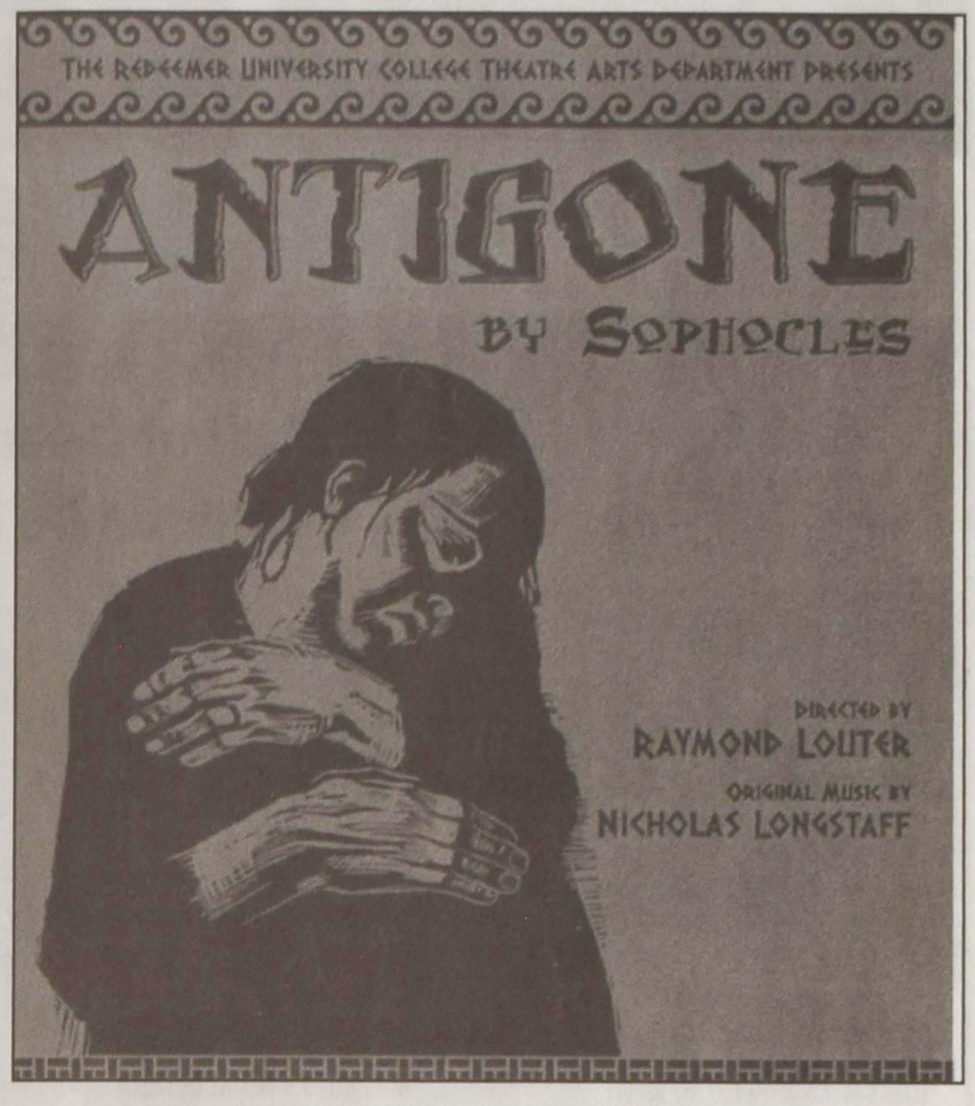


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ANTIGONE

Mainstage a Success: Cast, Design Shine

Photo by Tony Wiersma



Scott Fairley
Senior Staff Writer

The late Arthur Miller said that the best theatre explores our best and our worst, but never exploits it. Mr. Miller has given a challenge to theatre in the 21st century. The question of how, not what theatre portrays needs to be answered by audiences.

Antigone is Ray Louter's second attempt at Greek tragedy, and for many of the cast members, their second or more under his direction. After working with a much more intimate production on the 2005 Performance III's adaptation of *Electra*, *Antigone* is a much more epic affair, boasting a large cast and the less confined space of the auditorium stage. Armed with an experienced production crew, including Noah Hicks (stage manager), Chris Howlett (assistant stage manager), Talitha Dykstra (production manager), and Ivan Stam (set builder), Louter sought to tell a big story on a big stage.

The cast, all 18 of them, were mostly impressive, never overacting or slipping in character, though there were some dropped lines in the opening act. While no actor performed poorly, there were a number of obvious standouts. Ryan Sero, having played supporting roles in every mainstage play since 2005, plays Kreon, the tyrannical ruler of Thebes. Ryan's performance was impressive, as he managed to portray not just Kreon's seething anger throughout, but subtle hints at Kreon's insecurities and fear of losing power. While I would say his strength in Realist plays is supporting roles, in the Classical setting of *Antigone*, he looked comfortable and confident, but never to the point of overpowering his costars.

Amyann Faul Groen's performance as Antigone was surprisingly strong. She avoided turning her character into a melodramatic "damsel in distress" by showing Antigone as ultimately strong, but in over her head. Also noteworthy was Stephanie Elgersma's welcome return to the mainstage as Choragos, adding depth to the otherwise stoic character.

Perhaps most surprising though was Andrew Vlasbom's debut as Haimon, delivering a strong performance as an optimistic young man forced to defy his father to defend his bride's life. If this is a taste of things to come, the audience of next year's mainstage is in for a treat. Andrew's performance, though it did not steal the show, was a definite highlight.

The design and vision of Antigone, however, was what set it apart from Redeemer shows past. The Chorus of supporting actors performed elaborate choreographed movements, demonstrating the violence offstage in the intensity of the movement and singing. If anything, this aspect of the show was almost overdone. I found myself distracted a number of times, unsure where my attention was supposed to be directed. It was undoubtedly well done, but it was as much distracting as it was visually arresting.

Nicholas Longstaff's original music and arrangements for *Antigone* were nothing short of spectacular, however. By combining ambience with hymnal music, the Chorus generated moods and helped raise the intensity of the production bit by bit until the tragic conclusion of the play. Whatever emotion the dialogue-driven scenes lacked, the music would fill in.

Visually, the pairings of Sharon Klassen's production design, Melissa Veroen's costumes, and Sam Frisk's light design all made for an exotic looking show. The costumes mixed Arabic and Indian designs with makeup that looked almost like Egyptian hieroglyphics, and the result was a fully cohesive design that, while at times overwhelming, was the talk of the audience after the show.

But to answer Miller's challenge, how does all this tell a story about hubris and anger? How does it stand up against previous mainstage performances? President Justin Cooper is alleged to have called it the best show he's seen at Redeemer. I'm unable to make such a claim, even when I'm not reviewing the mainstage, so you the audience will have to make that call on your own. I will say this, however. Antigone was an impressive production by any standard, with any flaws compensated by the strength of its key actors and the production design. And when it comes to student theatre, little else can be asked.

The Zodiac Killer:

Another Successful Film by David Fincher

Scott Fairley
Senior Staff Writer

I'm probably alone in this, but I can remember spending hours upon hours of my youth watching the true-crime mini-documantaries on TLC such as *Exhibit A*, *Top Ten Unsolved Murders* and many numerous other crime documentaries: I saw them all. It was my first academic interest, as frightening of a subject as it is. However, many shows such as *CSI*, *Criminal Minds*, and others have been highly successful which reveals that people's interest in crime and criminals is quite mainstream.

Are you curious what the number one unsolved murder was? David Fincher, one of my favourite filmmakers, was interested in this question. The Zodiac Killer is perhaps the most bizarre serial killers in the history of the "profession." According to TLC, he outranks Jack the Ripper as the most notorious unsolved murderer. He would strike at random targets, sometimes in broad daylight or on the streets of the larger San Fransisco area. But that's not what put him at the number one spot. The Zodiac Killer was named number one for his bizarre way of relating to the police and the general public. He would send letters to various newspapers demanding that they publish his letters along with a cryptogram which used symbols of the zodiac. The Zodiac Killer claimed that the cryptogram, if deciphered, would reveal his identity. Many theories continue to this day but his code has yet to be cracked and the case remains open in two of the California counties he struck in.

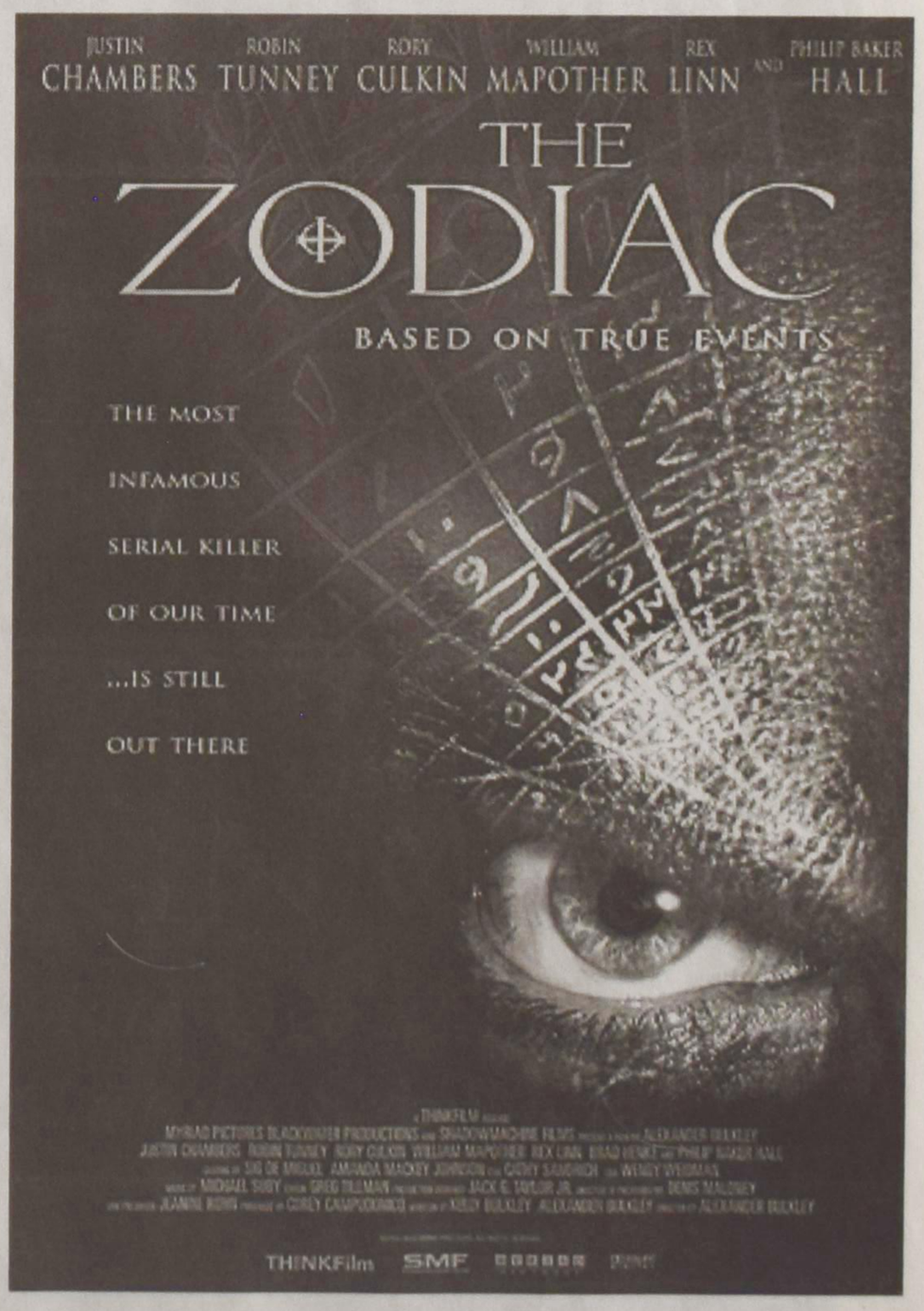
Fincher clearly has his work cut out for him but he faced a similar challenge when he sought to adapt Chuck Palahnuik's novel *Fight Club* to the screen in 1999. In a way, Fincher's not really the first to adapt the story of the Zodiac Killer to the screen. Clint Eastwood's classic, *Dirty Harry*, followed a similar plotline. It was a fictionalized account of a rogue cop who tracks down a serial killer known as Scorpio, who used symbols and letters to detail his demands and identity.

> The strength of Zodiac is in Fincher's subtlety, pacing, and cinematography. *Zodiac* runs for 158 minutes but does not feel very long to the viewer.

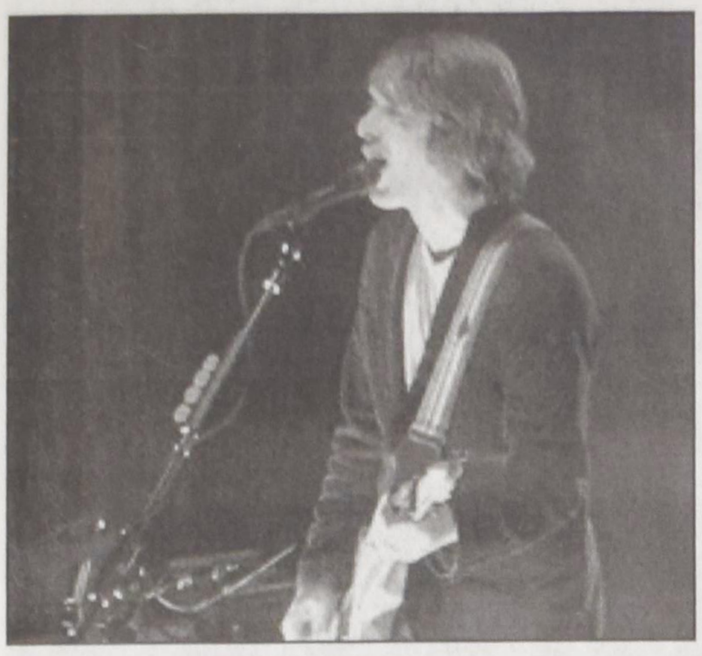
To accomplish a successful adaptation of such a complex story, Fincher assembled a talented ensemble cast, including Jake Gyllenhaal of *Jarhead* and *Brokeback Mountain* fame, Robert Downey Jr. in *Good Night and Good Luck*, Mark Ruffalo of *All the Kings Men*, and Chloe Sevigny. While the focus is primarily on Gyllenhaal's portrayal of the obsessed cartoonist Robert Graysmith, the entire cast is excellent. It includes an impressive performance by Downey Jr who portrays the alcoholic, chain-smoking crime reporter Paul Avery and a surprising performance by Ruffalo who appeared comfortable with adding subtle characterizations and a sincere portrayal of a detective who can't seem to shake the one case he cannot solve.

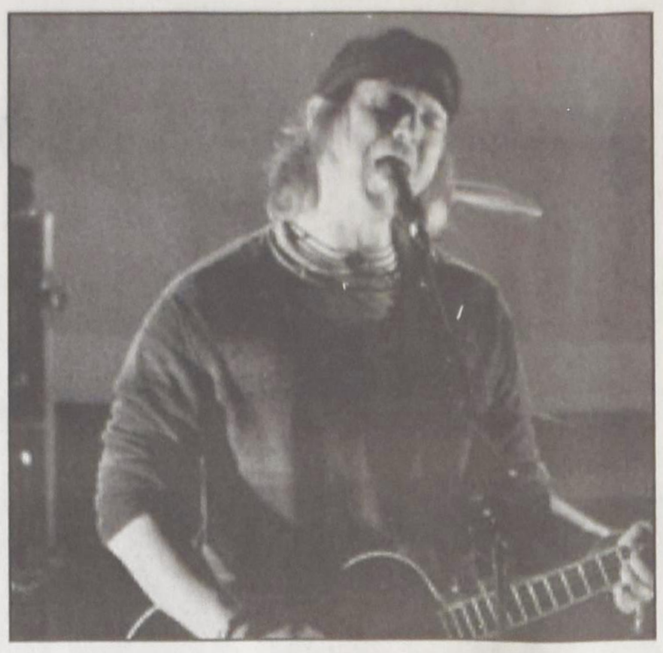
However, the strength of Zodiac is in Fincher's subtlety, pacing, and cinematography. *Zodiac* runs for 158 minutes but does not feel very long to the viewer. Scenes and segments are precisely as long or short as they ought to be. In my opinion, the only other director capable of this is Martin Scorcese. Fincher's reputation for making films that are psychologically demanding (except for his more conventional albeit superb thriller *Panic Room*) is put to the test in Zodiac. He manages to achieve this psychologically demanding creativity in an innovative and new way. In over a decade of serious film-watching, I have yet to encounter this as strongly as seen in *Zodiac*. Throughout the film, there is an overwhelming sense of anxiety which slowly builds through the entire two and a half hours. Sometimes it's just a shot that is slightly askew or the lighting in the scene but there is always a sense that something simply isn't right. One shot in particular (you will know it when you see it) is downright terrifying despite nothing genuinely scary actually *happening*. This is suspenseful filmmaking at its best!

Ultimately, *Zodiac* is a film about obsession not violence. It does not probe the human condition to see what kind of circumstances would produce someone capable of doing what the Zodiac Killer did, but rather focuses on what trying to understand what kind of circumstances would produce a serial killer can do to someone. Graysmith is shown as a man who sacrifices everything to get to the truth of what happens simply because he needs to know.



When all is said and done, *Zodiac* could be seen as a cautionary tale about our cultural obsession with violence. This may not have been Fincher's intention, but I found it difficult not to recognize that the general population is intensely interested in violence. The scenes in the film that refer to *Dirty Harry* seem to be explicitly demonstrating this fascination. *Zodiac* shows a fallen world both explicitly and implicitly but it is the best film of 2007 so far and a thriller worth seeing for anyone who refuses to leave their minds in the parking lot of the cinema.





JARS OF CLAY

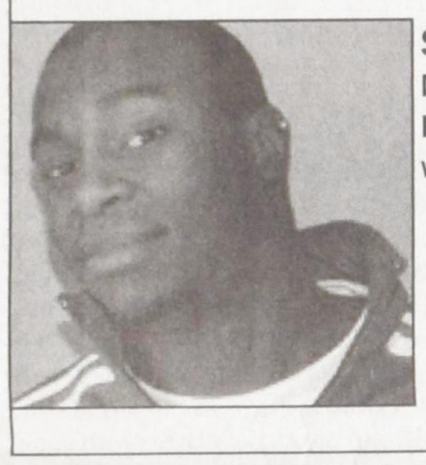
VOICES

If you could be any staff or faculty member for one day, who would you be and why?

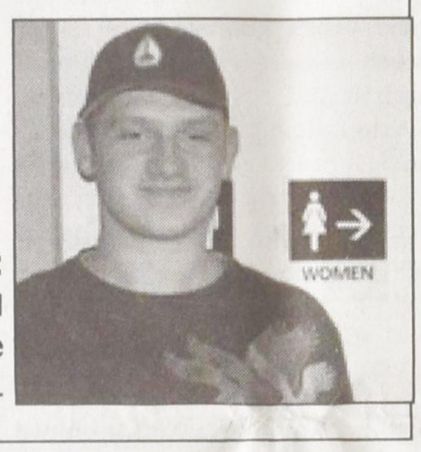
Monika Hintz:
Professor Koyzis, because he pulls off a bowtie so well!

Steven Denbok:
Matt Pamplin, because girls like guys with accents.

Kathleen Loney:
Gene Haas, so I could talk about sex all the time.



Seth Waterman:
Dr. John Boersma... because I have two exams with him next week.



Joel Dyxhoorn:
Any female professor, so I could know what it's really like in the girls washroom...

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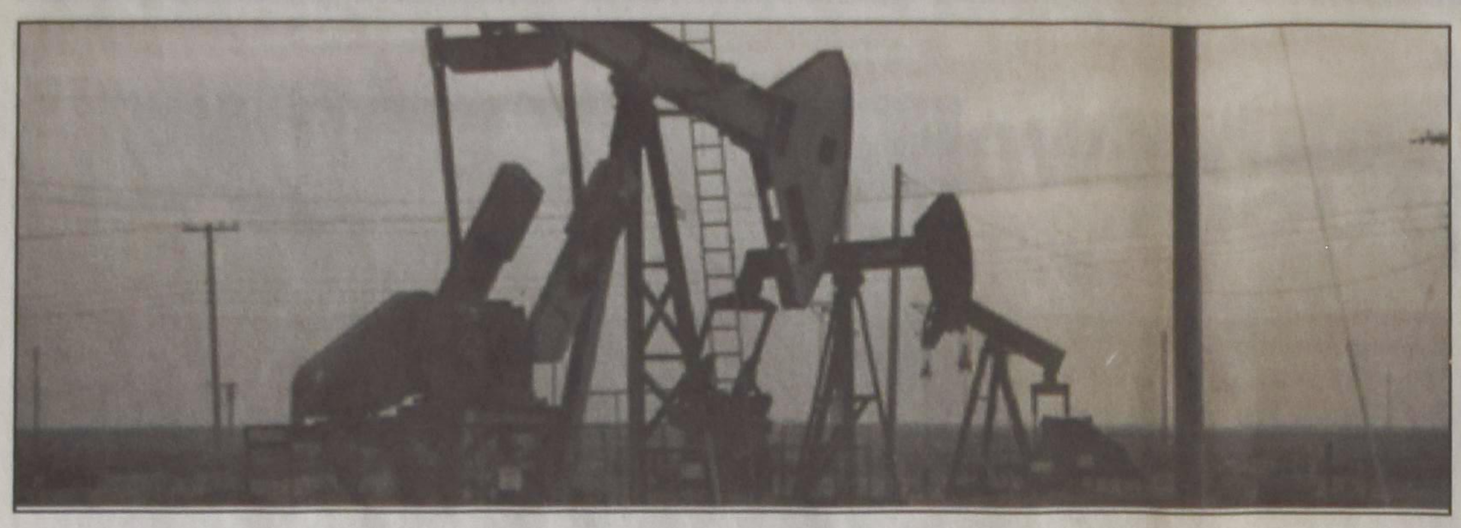


Canada's Biggest Secret:

Ontario Oil Fields!

J-osh Charles
Special Report

It is a little known fact that Ontario, the province we live in and love, is actually home to one of the richest oil fields in the world. There is more oil here than there is in the U.S. reserves in California, which you may have never heard of either.

Ironically, many of our government officials do not know about these fields, either. And as for private citizens, basically no one has ever heard of them up until now. They were discovered during the Seventies under the leadership of Trudeau. He was informed of this great natural resource in the ground under our feet. Rather than keeping this secret and saving it, which would have made Canada a very powerful nation at one point, Trudeau decided to trade the information of our oil reserves and he promise of partial control to the U.S. government in return for their status as our "Big Brother."

Trudeau did this with good intentions because he knew that aligning Canada with the United States would result in definite economic growth, among other benefits. He also knew that having them as our unofficial "Big Brother" would mean guaranteed military protection and alignment, along with economic and social stability. At this point in history, we essentially became one nation.

Is this honestly that surprising to you? Does it make sense now that it was during this time that NAFTA was created. Also, this was the time when Canada, a country with a very small national population especially compared to the vast geographical size, was made a member of the G7 and is a current member of the G8. The oil fields that are buried deep under our land earth were discovered by accident by a young scientist who was working for the Canadian government on a separate project. He was extremely excited by this discovery and wanted to spread the news.

However, since he was working for the government at the time, there was a strong government presence at the worksite. The man who was merely a small time government official, Bud Cullen, quickly worked his way up the political ladder until he was a federal cabinet minister during the Trudeeau reign.

It's fascinating that he worked his way from a low member of the party to quickly becoming a federal cabinet minister. Cullen let his crew of men and scientists know that this discovery was a matter of national security; therefore, he and his small crew kept this "Ontario Oil" discovery a secret. He assured the scientists and his crew that they would be taken care of by the government. However one men on the four man crew did not want to help out the government; he felt that this news should be known. He tried to make his way home from the work site to spread the news. He died "accidentally" on his trip home.

From this point on, the men of his crew were more than willing to go along with whatever the government wanted. Each of them received a handsome $3 million dollar payoff for their silence. They also were benefited with other perks such as being exempt from taxes, the opportunity to use any government run programs, facilities, and transportation for free, etc. Their silence, although it was against their belief in science and professional practices, did pay quite handsomely.

The reason the United States wanted to control these oil fields so badly is for the same reasons they invaded Iraq. Oil equals power and money! They knew that if they have control of Iraq's oil, their own California oil, and now this other huge reserve in Ontario that the United States of America, a nation that is otherwise on the downward fall, will be able to maintain their capitalistic society for centuries to come through the power and position this oil gives them. And we as Canadians, by aligning ourselves with them and offering them more than a piece of our Ontario oil will also live on with them.

Now that I have leaked this secret, there may be secret police coming for me. I have to be very careful and for that purpose I am writing under an alias. This is also a freelance submission so I want it to be known that those responsible for this paper have no clue who I am or where I live. There is no use in interrogating them. One last thing, the young scientist that discovered the oil is someone very famous in Canadian culture. He changed his name but if you think hard enough, you should know who he is. The Truth Must Be Told! Let's get our OIL back and retake the power that is robbed from our great nation.

Overheard

"Who doesn't want a candy coming out of a zebra's neck?"
– Katie McBride

"I am the freshest cougar."
– Ashley Stevens

"I have Skittles!"
– Jessica DeSmit

Joe Hamilton: "My x-chromosome was mutated at birth."
Jenny Vanderheyden: "What? You were supposed to be a girl?"

"My future looks like a red thong."
-A. Bling

"Shut up and unzip your shirt."
-Annonymous

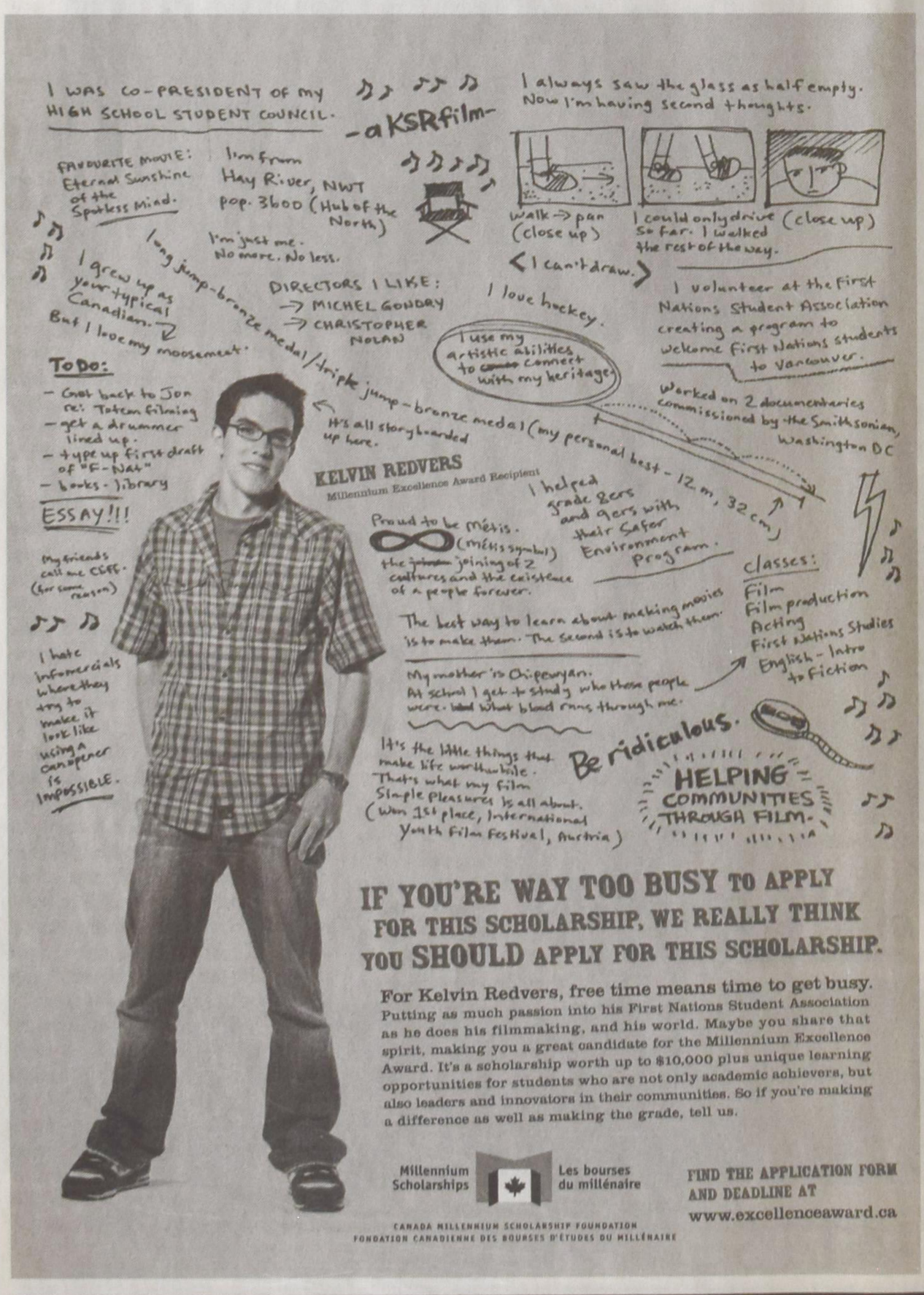
"Personally, I don't think."
-Professor Bowald.

"I can't do situps until I get fixed."
-Annonymous

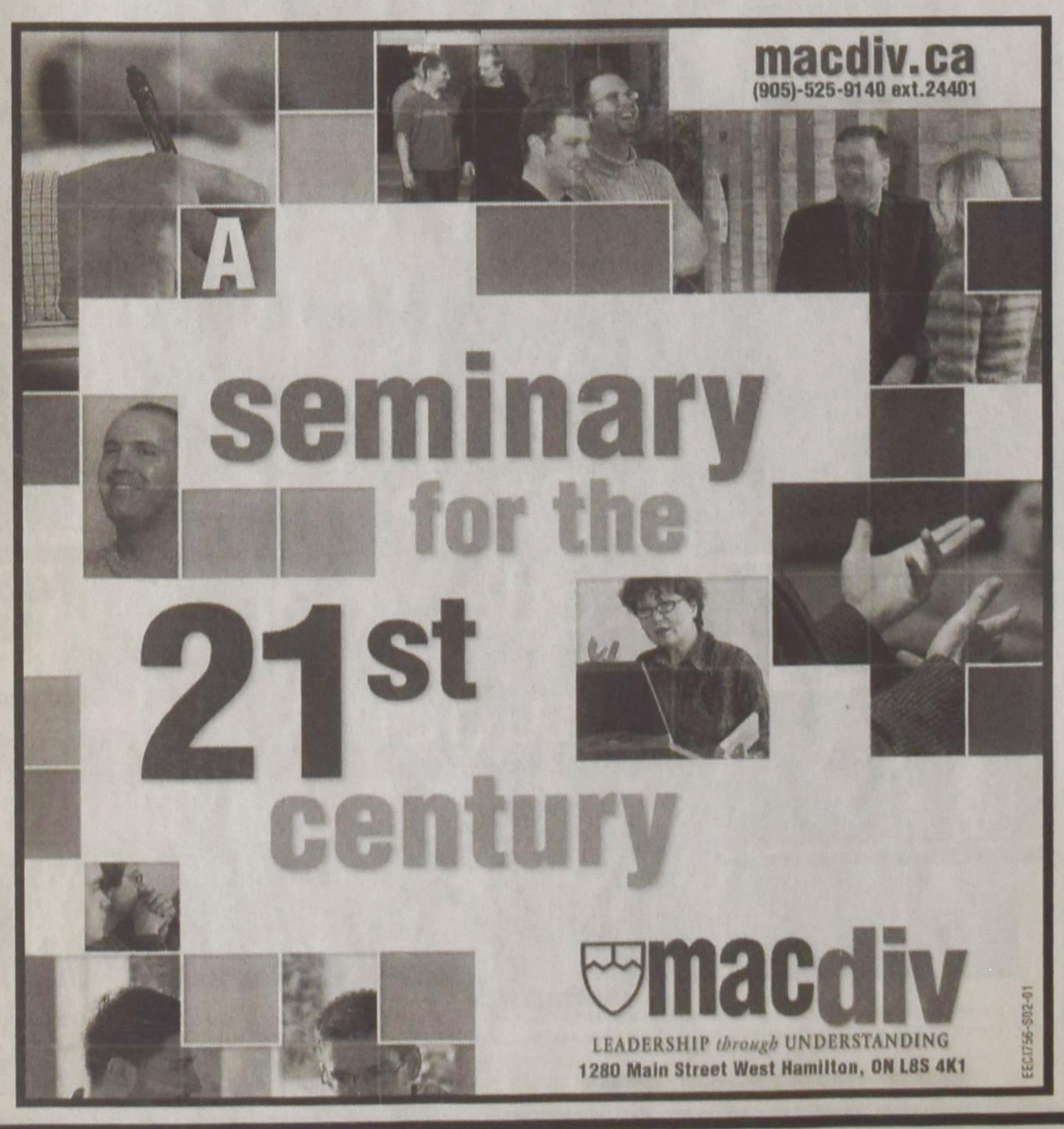
"This guy's just like Dad! I should become romantically entangled with him!"
-Professor Hackney

"This is a dead-woman story!"
-Professor Faber

"So, basically, the church is like a smoothie with all of those Fruits of the Spirit blended together..."
Professor Bowald



What do the Titanic and the Toronto Maple Leafs have in common?
They both look good until they hit the ice.



A Modest Proposal

Ryan Sero
Junior Staff Writer

It is a well-known fact that history is doomed to repeat itself, even if it is so close to the event itself; it is, therefore, our own sin for mocking and deriding history as it was being made at our school.

It was a very obvious truth when the warning shots were fired, but few paid heed, and where it was paid, it was severely shortchanged. The problem of which I speak is a two-tiered issue which must be addressed with the utmost care.

First, and foremost, know this: it is with great trepidation that I say this, as the last time such utterances were voiced; they were mocked and laughed at by the *vox populi*. I expect no better treatment, but someone must say something, must re-educate our campus on these dangers.

Second, the difficulty lies not only within the issue itself, but within the way it was handled. In true irony, not only was the issue ignored, but it was improperly addressed.

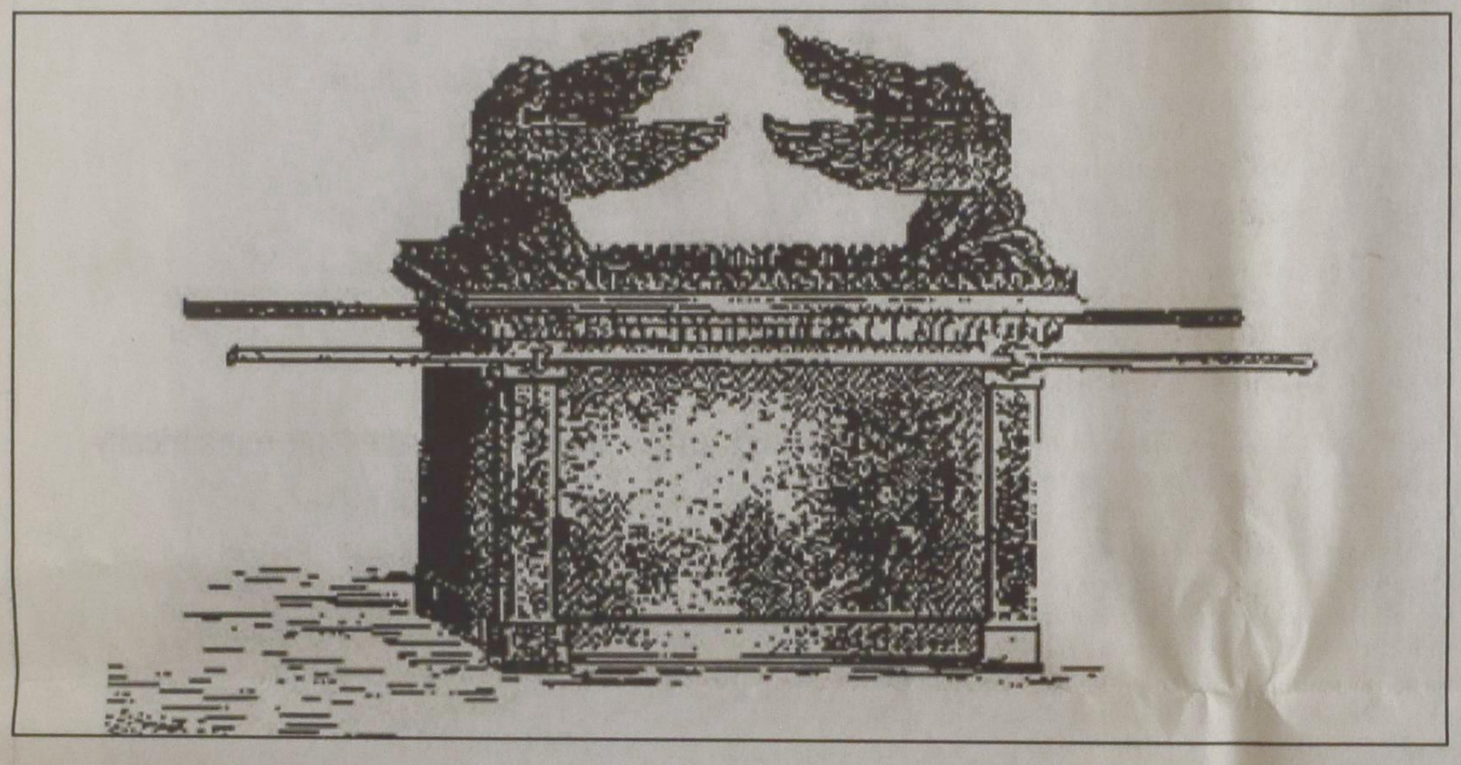
By now, trepidation must be pervasive within you, gentle reader, and I digress. Thus, to the issue at hand: I speak, of course, at the modesty issue, so brilliantly engaged last year. However, the bulk of the problem was not solved. This is because the truth of the issue was not in the immodesty of the girls on campus, but of the *modesty* of them. Allow me to explain.

The sexual perverseness and immorality of the gentlemen on campus is, once again, threatened. Last year the difficulty was shown to be the amount of skin shown on girls' bodies, and I agree, but in a different way. You see, through their attempts to cover up and show nothing, these same girls are inadvertently causing their brothers in Christ to sin in most ineffable ways. The imagination is a powerful tool of the Devil, and he is clearly using it to the best of his advantage. In short: by the modesty expressed amongst the female population, they, indeed *you* are giving us men on campus too much to imagine. With our minds running so rampant, attempting to "fill in the blanks," I must admit that I am at a loss of what to do.

It seems that the only viable option would be to accept the lesser of two evils. Is it not better to minimize the damage? Rather than having men ogling, attempting to picture girls naked, and lying awake at night fantasizing about what might be under those many layers and baggy folds of fabric, would it not be a more prudent and chaste option to wear less and less clothing? Not all at once, mind you, but to slowly strip off layers until the imagination could no longer work its devilish machinations. Much better for a man to look once and merely be tempted than to allow his inner mind and psyche to dwell upon the forms he can only *dream of*.

Men cannot control their own imaginations, but were there nothing to imagine in the first place, would it not be possible to restrict or even eliminate entirely the source of the sin—the imagination and the perverse realm of fantasy? In fact, it would probably be better to simply burn many books which stimulate the imagination. Fairy tales and fancy are useful devices for the Devil to invade our minds and force us to learn to use imaginative instincts which he will then wield as a weapon against our modesty. In addition, this would provide a source of heat for all of the women who would be requiring a little more warmth.

If we simply follow these measures, I estimate that we can cut down on the vast majority of inappropriate thoughts and actions committed by students on campus—especially male students. All it will take is a little more will, a little less imagination, and a lot less clothes.



The Ark of the Covenant Explained!

But what does this mean? Has it been found?

Jordan Delleman
Senior Staff Writer

Recent Biblical research has discovered the reason for the potency of the famed Ark of the Covenant. Despite what the Indiana Jones movies tell you, no lightning or some such divine wrath is the cause of so much death. Extensive study has revealed that the danger of the Ark is none other than radioactive material housed inside.

Take a look at the facts that our resident theologian, Count Dr. Arnold Wolta, B.A., Ph.D, LL.B, A.A, T.J.L.Q, has found. The Ark, he says, was never to be touched, always carried at arms length to prevent extensive exposure. Only select people, in special outfits (were the Israelites the first to develop radiation suits?) were allowed to carry the Ark. When it came into the Philistine lands, an idol fell apart (radiation is deterioration) and the people developed tumours (the first case of cancer in recorded history?). And years later, there were these massive giants in Philistine. Is this from the genetic mutation caused by the Ark?

And on that topic, how about the almost inhuman strength David's mighty men? It may be prolonged exposure to the Ark that eventually the Israelites started to develop into military monsters? If you remember, Moses also came down the mountain *glowing*; these were no ordinary tablets that the law was written on. And why do you think that the dimensions and materials for the tabernacle, and priestly garments, were so particular? The tablets that God wrote the Ten Commandments on were arguably plutonium.

Where does this leave us? First off, this has great historical importance. Historian Dr. Darryl Provoqk8jgt (pronounced "PROE-voe) argues that this makes the whole difference for understanding ancient warfare. "The use of radioactive materials makes all the difference when we look at the fall of empires," he says. "By poisoning themselves slowly with these emblems, no ancient civilization could last."

It would also account for the early success of many nations. Presumably the material would be used aggressively, poisoning the defending nation. But ancient holding methods for the material were imperfect, and would eventually kill off those that owned it. A fringe group of historians have argued though, that it was a purely Semitic invention, and that this explains the inability of any one nation to hold onto the region for any amount of time. Extensive radiation poisoning would have killed off any invading force.

Now, if the Ark was radioactive, this makes finding it many times easier. Already our top scientists are combing the area with radioactivity sensors, trying to find a place that is abnormally active. But this brings up another issue. Iran has been a very controversial place lately for its nuclear developments, and many people are worried that this increase in radioactive elements has been because they have found the Ark. What seems like nuclear testing has actually been their research with the Ark.

And why do you think that the dimensions and materials for the tabernacle, and priestly garments, were so particular? The tablets that God wrote the Ten Commandments on were arguably plutonium.

Our senior political scientist Dr. David Coyprus believes this to be a very dangerous theory. "If [Iran has the Ark] then the Middle East has suddenly become even more volatile," he says. "We have no idea what the Israelis could do, and what bloodshed will result." Regardless, the Ark of the Covenant has great significance in many cultures, and its discovery could prove many Biblical stories.

This discovery has certainly shed a new light on the Biblical story, and as events develop, things could become very dicey. As it is, there is largely just speculation as to the effects, and we wait while more continues to be discovered.

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Four Years of Knowledge
IN REALLY BIG WRITING

Natalia Brasofuerte
Editor-in-Chief

In this my final issue of *The Crown* and as my last opportunity to write to the students of Redeemer University College as a student, myself, I would like to take the time to reflect on and discuss what I have learned in my time as an undergrad. What I mean by this is, more specifically, what I have learned that textbooks just cannot teach.

In my first year at Redeemer, I learned that it does not matter how often you check mailboxes and email accounts, you will still get the same amount of mail; everyone needs to know a little bit of Dutch to make it through life; intellectuals can restart fashion trends that no one else can; not everyone puts ketchup on their scrambled eggs; Al Brown is the poster-boy for hyperhidrosis; Snood-creator, Dave Dobson, has kids who are neat, but starving; and that living in Aug Hall permits driving to the school.

In my second year, I learned that there are other classrooms in this school besides room 111; first years do not lead busy lives no matter how much they claim that they do; Gene Haas sure knows how to sing Weird Al Yankovic covers; Religion 101 and INT 121 are the same class; bowties are still hot; and living in third parking lot permits driving to the school.

In my third year, I learned that South African accents are cooler than any other accent on earth; Augustine Hall has earned newer, more risqué nicknames throughout the years; procrastination is merely a part of the education process; Gideon Strauss is not a Goth; and being on crutches permits driving to the school.

In my fourth year, I learned that the creators of Facebook are the anti-Christ; real friends are found on MySpace; crutches and stairs don't mix; 8-page papers only take an hour and a half to write; Moodle is not a mixed breed of dog; getting married is not a pre-requisite for graduation; having a nervous breakdown in third year makes forth year feel like a breeze; and driving to school is for lazy people.

As I've reached the end of the road at Redeemer, the lessons that I carry with me will enrich my life forever. For the many that have gone on before me and the many that will learn and grow in the very halls that I made my memories in, I know that their lessons, too, will be just as enriching.

THE CLOWN

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THE CLOWN

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Redeemer TV

Tim Dykstra
Crown Alumnus

Sick of watching fuzzy television and adjusting the rabbit ears to pick up a glimpse of your favourite celebrities? Wishing you didn't have to fight with other big screen reservations in the Rec Centre? Redeemer has heard your cries.

It is expected that before the school year ends the Student Life department and President Cooper will announce a rather exciting project that has been in development for a few years. This announcement will officially unveil a new project entitled Redeemer TV, a new digital cable channel, created by a collaboration of MTV and Redeemer. The station will be available to premium cable subscribers and for free to those on campus, though MTV, taking a page from Coca-Cola's playbook, has made it clear that no other stations are to be shown. So, you will no longer have to fuss with those rabbit ears, as they will be confiscated.

Originally the station was to be titled Redeemed TV but there was some worry that it set too lofty a goal.

"After all," one member of the Redeemer TV committee remarked, "we are partnering with MTV, not PBS."

In fact, Redeemer is reported to have specifically signed the contract with MTV on Redeemer's own request. Sources say that Redeemer did not want to raise a heavy debate about the duality of secular and Christian music, so they chose a channel which played no music at all.

The first announced program is a Redeemer version of The Real World. This program will follow a group of Redeemer graduates as they experience their first post-graduate summer. This reality show will focus the camera on the grads as they struggle with being off-campus and out of the house, search for work and pay bills and loans, and travel from wedding to wedding of their fellow graduates. The deadline for auditions for The Real World: Redeemer will likely be announced at the same time as the official Redeemer TV press conference.

On a similar programming note, there has already been talk of a spin-off Redeemer TV channel, because when production began on a Redeemer version of the Newlyweds, there was enough material to fill another full 24 hours of programming.

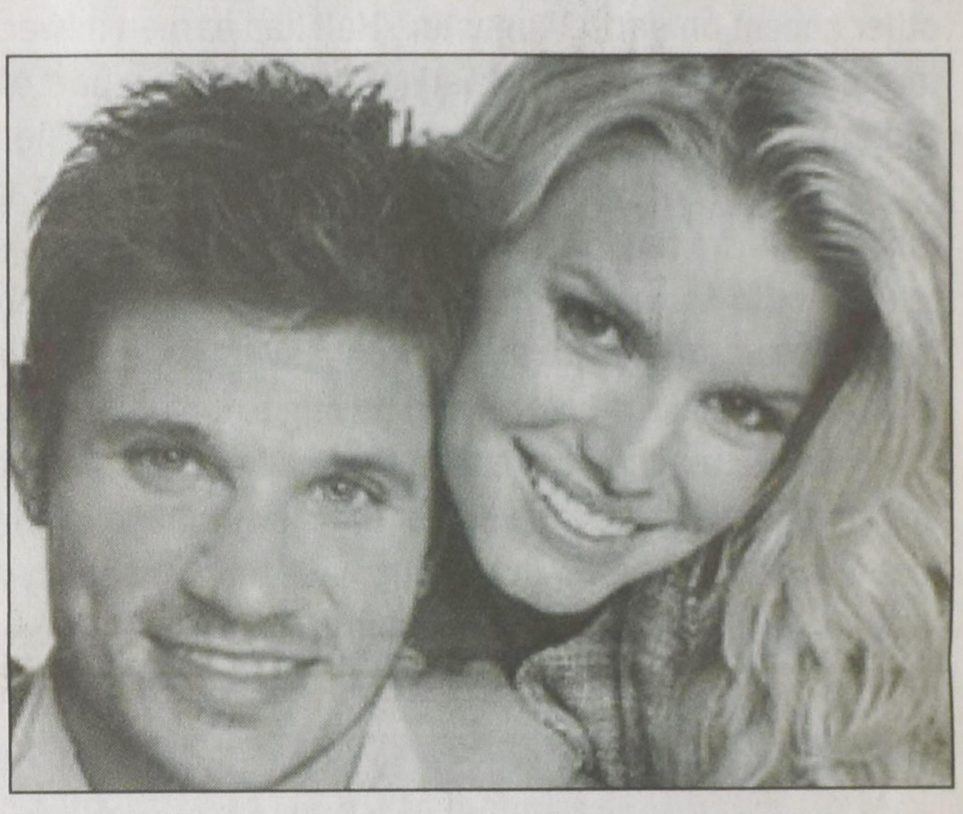
And since poking cameras around in the houses of people has become so popular, Redeemer TV has reportedly finished their search for a more wholesome family to present a cleaner version of the Osbourne's. The program will be called The VanDeDijkooysma's and will follow around the family as they go about their daily lives. Very preliminary ratings are low, though the channel itself has yet to be launched.

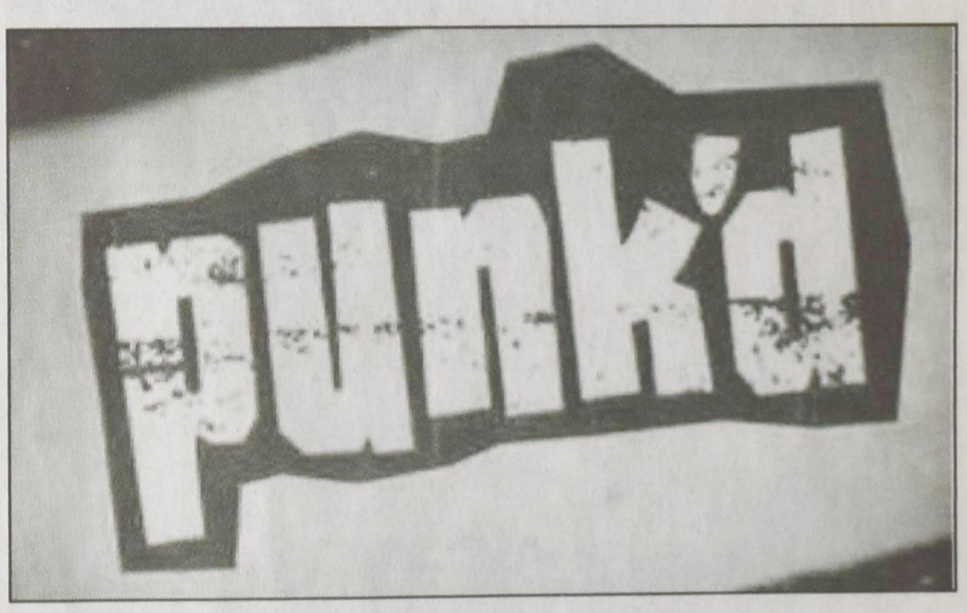
There has been some information floating around that a drastically retooled version of "Pimp My Ride" will be included in the line up as well. However, due to its derogatory nature, the word "pimp" will be replaced with "improve". Because of the materialistic tendencies of the original show, the concept of the enhancement of beaten up vehicles or "rides" will also be replaced. Instead, this spun-off version, called "Improve My Spiritual Life", will do much as the title indicates, plus there will be Bible covers with fold out LCD TV screens. No word yet on which rapper will be hosting.

There will also be animated shows, including the comedic Professor Deathmatch (an adaptation of Celebrity Deathmatch) where claymation versions of Redeemer professors compete for their lives. While the results of these competitions are being very tightly held, some rumours have surfaced regarding some details of the claymation brawls. Insiders have mentioned a fanny-pack sleeper hold, a razor sharp bowtie, as well as a rather unfair husband and wife tag team play in a battle between the science professors.

A Redeemer version of "MTV Cribs" is in the works as well, but rather than celebrities, the half-hour show will be spent touring on-campus student's half-rooms. There will be a selection of hour-long specials where the cameras will tour the rooms of off-campus students who do not share rooms. Contacts from MTV also indicated that they wanted to have included a similar program to Punk'd but there was considerable resistance by the Redeemer camp due to a strict anti-raiding policy. Neither Student Life nor Ashton Kutcher could be reached for comment.

The channel is said to launch next year and much of the programming has yet to be confirmed. Some have suggested that some of the hours be filled with inoffensive and thoroughly mediocre fare, such as Sue Thomas, F.B.Eye and Seventh Heaven, while others suggest simply tapping into the CTS feed so that Redeemer students can see their share of the Fresh Prince and the Tanner family. Whatever the decision, it seems that it will take several years to get the channel into full swing.





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Professor Al Wolters to be Knighted

Natalie Armstrong
Editor-in-Chief

(AP) London –

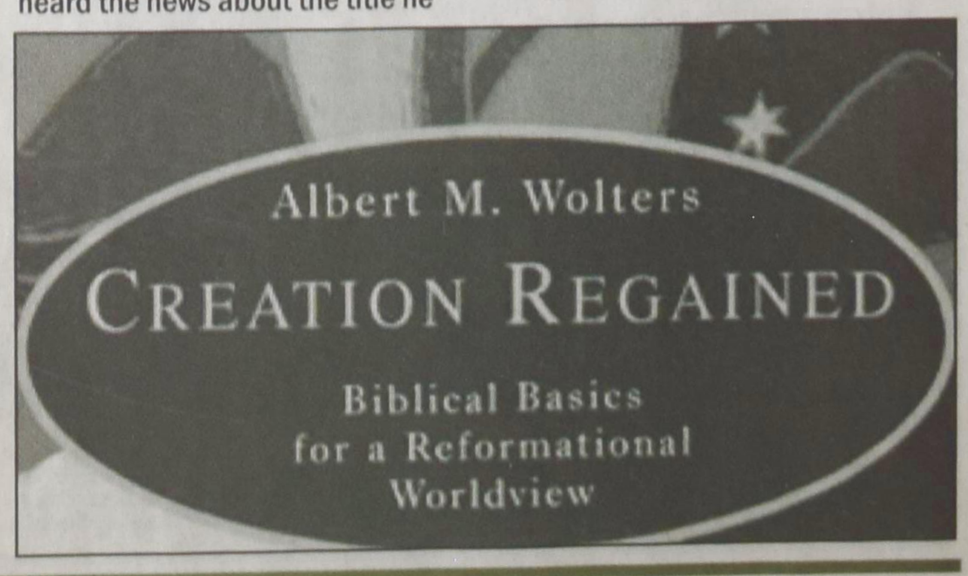
In a press conference held at Buckingham Palace, Tuesday, April 10, 2007, it was announced that Albert M. Wolters will be given Britain's highest honour. Wolters will be dubbed a knight by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

On May 24, 2007, the day that Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth commemorate the birthday of Queen Victoria, the professor from Redeemer University College, in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada will be knighted Sir Albert M. Wolters.

Wolters, who has gained international acclaim for his work Creation Regained, has been a leading researcher on one of the most recently recovered Dead Sea Scrolls, The Copper Scroll. Featured in a PBS mini-series in 2005, Wolters discussed his research on The Copper Scroll along with other leading researchers in his field. Wolters has also gained mass attention across the Middle East and in a number of Asian countries as his image has been plastered on billboards and at bus-stops as a symbol of peace.

Currently, Wolters is in negotiations with Reebok to launch his very own line of fanny packs to be given the name: The Fanny Regained. The deal is said to be worth $2.7 billion in endorsements. The slogan for this new venture has not yet been released, but an inside source has leaked two possibilities: "Take back the pack" and "Fanny it up."

Wolters was shocked when he heard the news about the title he is to be given. When asked what he would do after he was honoured with the title of Sir Wolters, Wolters stated, "I'm going to Disneyworld."

It has also been reported that guests invited to be present at the honouring of Wolters include Dame Edna Everage, Sir Tom Jones, and Sir Elton John who will be performing his soon to be released single, Reformed Man.

Dr. Justin Cooper, longtime colleague of Wolters and President at Redeemer University College, proudly said of Wolters, "He has always been a noble man and now he is a nobleman."